Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-3.   (canceled)

Claim 4.   (currently amended)   A method for operating interface modules in an ATM communications device, ~~wherein each of the interface modules is specified as one of active and redundant, and~~ wherein the interface modules are connected to a central control unit, the method comprising the steps of:

specifying each of the interface modules as one of active and redundant;

providing control commands for establishment and clearing of at least one virtual connection between the central control unit and the interface modules; and

transmitting the control commands approximately simultaneously from the central control unit to the active and the redundant interface modules;

wherein the central control unit is ~~not~~ notified ~~by the redundant interface modules~~ of respective receipt of the control commands only by the active interface modules.

Claim 5.   (previously presented)   A method for operating interface modules in an ATM communications device as claimed in claim 4, wherein no additional synchronization of the redundant and active interface modules is performed.

Claim 6.   (previously presented)   A method for operating interface modules in an ATM communications device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the procedures provided for controlling the active and redundant interface modules are processed approximately concurrently.